

REMARKS

A. *Status of Claims*

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. These pending claims stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,344,083. These pending claims have also again been provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 50-72 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/943,600.

B. *Response to Final Rejection*

Applicants submitted a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the above-noted rejections, which were first raised in the Office action dated June 4, 2003. These rejections have been maintained, however, based on the Office's assertion that the Terminal Disclaimer that was submitted does not comply with 37 CFR 1.130(b) and/or (c), because it was signed by an attorney not of record herein.

In response to the present Office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject Terminal Disclaimer does in fact comply with 37 CFR 1.130(b) and/or (c), in as much as the signing attorney is clearly of record herein. In support of Applicants' assertion, attached hereto are the following documents:

1. A photocopy of Applicants' Response to Office Action dated August 25, 2003, wherein the subject Terminal Disclaimer is referenced;
2. A photocopy of the subject Terminal Disclaimer;

3. A photocopy of the date-stamped Postcard submitted with the above-noted Response and Terminal Disclaimer, indicating the Patent Office's receipt of same;
4. A photocopy of Applicants' Letter In Response to Notice to File Missing Parts, wherein the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney is referenced;
5. A photocopy of the above-noted executed Declaration and Power of Attorney, wherein the undersigned, who also signed the subject Terminal Disclaimer, is clearly identified; and,
6. A photocopy of the date-stamped Postcard submitted with the above-noted Letter In Response to Notice to File Missing Parts, indicating the Patent Office's receipt of same.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject Terminal Disclaimer does in fact comply with 37 CFR 1.130(b) and/or (c), in as much as the signing attorney is clearly of record herein. Accordingly, reconsideration of these rejections, and thus allowance of all pending claims, is respectfully requested.

C. Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Kunemund for the time spent discussing the present Office action via telephone on December 15, 2003. Based on that conversation, Applicants believe they are providing with this Letter all the documentation needed to clearly establish that the subject Terminal Disclaimer fully complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.130(b) and/or (c). However, should any additional information be needed, the undersigned respectfully request that he be contacted by phone, in the interest of expediting allowance of the pending claims.



CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1-30 are allowable. Reconsideration of the rejection of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under payment or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Enclosures